

List of the Claims:

This listing of claims in the application is as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A voice communications method comprising:
 - a process at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;
 - a process at a server for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;
 - a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;
 - a process at said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;
 - a process at said voice input terminal that generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;

and

a process at said voice input terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.
2. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein said process for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that received said voice data.
3. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein: said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and

said process for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after a transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

4. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein :
said process for generating said reception result adds an ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and
said process for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

5. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein
said process for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on a data form of said voice data.

6. (Previously presented) A voice communications method comprising:
a process at a terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;
a process at a server for receiving said utterance data;
a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;
a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;
a process at said predetermined terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;
a process at said server for receiving said voice data;
a process at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;
a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and
a process at the said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting
the voice indicated by said voice data.

7. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein
said process for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating an action of an
avatar of a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

8. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein the server for
processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

9. (Previously presented) A voice communications method comprising:
a process at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional
terminal to another optional terminal;
a process at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending
voice data indicating said voice;
a process at said server for receiving said voice data;
a process at said server for sending said voice data to a voice receiving terminal to which
data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;
a process at said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said
voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a process at said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

10. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:
a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;
wherein said process for storing stores the designation.

11. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:
a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;
wherein said process for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

12. (Currently amended) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:
a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and
a process at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and or discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;
wherein said process for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

13. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:
 - a process at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;
 - a process at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;
 - a process at said server for receiving said utterance data;
 - a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;
 - a process at said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;
 - a process at said voice receiving terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;
 - a process at said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for generating and sending said voice data;
 - a process at said server for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at said server for sending said voice data to said voice receiving terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;
 - a process at said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;
 - a process at said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for generating and sending a reception result of said voice data;

a process at said voice receiving input terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and a process at said voice receiving input terminal that received said reception result for indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

14. (Previously presented) A voice communications system comprising:
 - a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;
 - a means at a server for receiving said voice data;
 - a means at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;
 - a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;
 - a means at said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;
 - a means at said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;
 - a means at said voice input terminal that generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;and
 - a means at said voice input terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

15. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein said means for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that received said voice data.

16. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein:
said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly
received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after a
transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if
said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was
received within said predetermined period of time.

17. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein :
said means for generating said reception result adds an ID of the terminal that received
said voice data to said reception result; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception
state.

18. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein
said means for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on a data
form of said voice data.

19. (Previously presented) A voice communications system comprising:
a means at a terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data,
which is shorter than a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;
a means at a server for receiving said utterance data;
a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said predetermined terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data; a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a means at said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

20. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein said means for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

21. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

22. (Previously presented) A voice communications system comprising:

a means at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending voice data indicating said voice;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a means at said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

23. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation.

24. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

25. (Currently amended) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a means at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, ~~and or~~ discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal; wherein said means for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

26. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:

a means at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said voice receiving terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for generating and sending said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said voice receiving terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for generating and sending a reception result of said voice data;

a means at said voice receiving input terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a means at said voice receiving input terminal that received said reception result for indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

27 - 39. (Canceled)

40. (New) A computer-readable medium storing a program, which, when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

generating voice data at a voice input terminal at which voice is input, the voice data indicating the voice;

receiving the voice data at a server;

sending the voice data from the server to a predetermined terminal;

receiving the voice data at the predetermined terminal;

outputting the voice indicated by the voice data at the predetermined terminal;

generating a reception result of the voice data at the predetermined terminal;

receiving the reception result at the voice input terminal;

and

visually indicating a reception state of the voice data based on the reception result at the voice input terminal.

41. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 40, wherein the reception state is indicating by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that received the voice data.

42. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 40, wherein the reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message and indicating the reception state includes indicating that the voice data was correctly received if the ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after a transmission of the voice data or indicating that the voice data was not correctly received if the NACK message was received within the predetermined period of time or if no message was received within the predetermined period of time.

43. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 40, wherein generating the reception result includes adding an ID of the terminal that received the voice data to the reception result and indicating the reception state includes indicating the ID along with the reception state.

44. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 40, wherein the reception result is based on a data form of the voice data.

45. (New) A computer-readable medium storing a program, which, when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

generating and sending utterance data from a voice input terminal, the utterance data shorter than a voice data indicating the voice and which is data indicating an utterance; receiving the utterance data at a server; sending the utterance data from the server to a predetermined terminal; receiving the utterance data at the predetermined terminal; indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent the utterance data at the predetermined terminal; generating the voice data at the terminal that sent the utterance data receiving the voice data at the server sending the voice data from the server to the predetermined terminal; receiving the voice data at the predetermined terminal; and outputting the voice indicated by the voice data at the predetermined terminal.

46. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 45, wherein the process for indicating the utterance indicates the utterance by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that sent the utterance data.

47. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 45, wherein the server for processing the utterance data and the server for processing the voice data are different.

48. (New) A computer-readable medium storing a program, which, when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform a method, the method comprising:
storing, at a server, permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

generating and sending voice data indicating the voice at a voice input terminal at which voice is input;

receiving the voice data at the server;

sending the voice data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the voice input terminal that sent the voice data;

receiving the voice data at the voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the voice input terminal that sent the voice data; and

outputting the voice indicated by the voice data at the voice receiving terminal that received the voice data.

49. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 48, wherein the method further comprises:

sending data from a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial to another optional terminal, wherein storing includes storing the designation.

50. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 48, wherein the method further comprises:

sending data from a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial to another optional terminal, wherein storing includes storing the designation if the designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, and discarding the designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, and wherein storing includes storing the designation.

51. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 48, wherein the method further comprises:

 a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and
 a process at the predetermined terminal for sending the designation to the server if the designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discarding the designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal;
 wherein the process for storing stores the designation sent by the predetermined terminal.

52. (New) A computer-readable medium storing a program, which, when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

 sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal via a server for storing permission or denial;
 generating and sending utterance data at a voice input terminal at which voice is input, the utterance data shorter than a voice data indicating the voice, the utterance data indicating an utterance;
 receiving the utterance data at the server;
 sending the utterance data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the voice input terminal that sent the utterance data via the server;
 receiving the utterance data at the voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the voice input terminal that sent the utterance data;
 indicating the utterance at the voice receiving terminal that received the utterance data from the voice input terminal that sent the utterance data;

generating and sending the voice data at the voice input terminal that sent the utterance data;

receiving the voice data a process at the server;

sending the voice data to the voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the voice input terminal that sent the voice data via the server;

receiving the voice data at the voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the voice input terminal that sent the voice data;

outputting the voice indicated by the voice data at the terminal that received the voice data;

generating and sending a reception result of the voice data at the voice receiving terminal that received the voice data;

receiving the reception result at the voice input terminal from which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent the reception result; and

indicating a reception state of the voice data based on the reception result at the voice input terminal that received the reception result.